

Francisco Bay Area Council, Forty-Niner Council, Santa Clara County Council, Orange County Council, and Great Western Council. For the last four years he led the Monterey Bay Area Council as the Scout Executive, serving Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Counties. I have had the particular pleasure of working with Ken on enhancing and preserving the Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp in Big Sur that I enjoyed in my youth.

Under his leadership the Boy Scouts of America was enriched with growth in the organization and its outreach to boys. Some of his accomplishments include leading the San Francisco Bay Area Council to expand membership in youth outreach programs by 37.5 percent, and the annual youth membership there increased by 41 percent, more than any other council in the United States. He wrote the original national Scouting curriculum for In-School Scouting, developed and implemented the first In-School Scouting program for Latino youth in Orange County and East San Jose, and prepared public relations strategies for the Boy Scouts of America both at the local level and the national level.

Mr. Speaker, Ken Allen's career has been one of exemplary service to every community he lived in, and even more to the greater community of Scouting. His innovative programs and achievements are an inspiration to all who build our youth and strive to make the world a better place.

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 28, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the leaders and members of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Cleveland, Ohio, as they gather in celebration of 125 years of faith, guidance and hope for parishioners, and for the greater good of the community.

The Church has not moved from its original location. Built more than a century ago, Immanuel Lutheran Church was the center of faith and support for hundreds of immigrant families who journey to America from Germany. Today, Immanuel Lutheran Church continues its mission and remains one of the few churches to conduct weekly services in German. The Reverend Horst Hoyer has faithfully served the congregation for 50 years, and remarkably, he is only the third pastor to serve in the 125-year history of the church.

The warm and inclusive atmosphere of Immanuel Lutheran Church, located in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood, has remained constant through the years. This spirit of cooperation and unity has served to strengthen the spirit of the church and has also served to strengthen and uplift the surrounding neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every leader and member, past and present, of Immanuel Lutheran Church, as they celebrate 125 years of offering spiritual guidance for countless families and individuals throughout the Tremont neighborhood and beyond. Since 1880, the

parish has evolved in scope and membership, yet the mission and location has remained an unwavering source of faith, hope and light, embracing the spiritual needs and everyday struggles of all members.

DISAPPROVING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the joint resolution (H.R. Res. 65) disapproving the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission:

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, first and foremost, the implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendations will provide badly needed cost savings to our Nation. With the current state of our Federal budget, the enormous estimated spending reductions of over \$35 billion achieved through this new BRAC round are necessary to help put our fiscal house in order. These recommendations will also better enable our military services to confront the new threats our Nation faces today—increasing efficiency and effectiveness, and improving our national security.

That said, I still firmly disagree with some of the specific BRAC recommendations, such as the closure of the 440th Airlift Wing at General Mitchell Field in Milwaukee. The closure of the 440th is the wrong decision, and I have done everything in my power to try and convince the BRAC Commission that keeping the 440th up and running is an important priority. The 1,100 brave men and women of this unit have proven themselves often in recent missions to Honduras, Haiti, Somalia, Rwanda, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and several trips to Iraq. I believe their continued operations would have enhanced the security of our country.

Today, however, we were faced with an up-or-down vote on the BRAC Commission recommendations as a whole. On balance, I found the recommendations to be worthy of approval, and voted—with some reservations—against the motion to disapprove the final BRAC report.

INTRODUCTION OF ROCKY FLATS MINERALS ACQUISITION ACT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 28, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a new bill to facilitate the acquisition by the United States of certain mineral rights associated with the Rocky Flats site, in Colorado.

This bill combines the key features of a bill that I introduced earlier this year, cosponsored by Representative BEAUPREZ, and legislation more recently proposed by Colorado's two Senators.

Thus, it combines elements that have bipartisan support and that, together, can lay the basis for answering one of the final questions about the future management of the lands at Rocky Flats.

BACKGROUND

In the 1950s, the Federal Government bought land at Rocky Flats, near Denver, Colorado, for use as a production facility for nuclear-weapon components. However, the purchase did not include all the mineral rights, some of which remained in private ownership.

Production at Rocky Flats ended more than a decade ago. Since then, the Department of Energy, DOE, through its contractors, has been working to have the site cleaned up and closed. As recently as this month, the contractor has indicated that it has completed the cleanup of the site. The regulatory certification of cleanup and closure is now imminent, and when that happens, most of the site will be transferred to the Interior Department for management as a national wildlife refuge pursuant to the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge Act.

ROCKY FLATS WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

In 2001, Congress passed legislation I sponsored with Senator WAYNE ALLARD to guide the future of Rocky Flats. Under that legislation—the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001—once the cleanup and closure are accomplished, most of the land at Rocky Flats will be transferred from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Interior and will be managed as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge act includes some provisions related to the non-Federal minerals—primarily sand and gravel—at Rocky Flats. It says “nothing in this [law] limits any valid, existing . . . mineral right” except for “such reasonable conditions on access . . . as are appropriate for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats and for the management of the refuge.” And it says that a Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, between DOE and Interior is to “address the impacts” mineral rights “may have on the management of the refuge, and provide strategies for resolving or mitigating these impacts.”

These provisions were included in the refuge act in order to make clear that while these mineral rights are to be respected as private property, future development of the minerals could have adverse effects on the land, wildlife habitat, and other values of the future wildlife refuge. That is why Congress directed the agencies to consider these potential future effects and work to find ways to mitigate those impacts. So far, however, the Energy and Interior Departments have not been able to agree on what to do about the minerals.

I think the best way to resolve this situation would be for the Federal Government to acquire the minerals. This bill is intended to facilitate that result.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO

The bill would—

(1) Authorize DOE to expend funds to acquire some or all of the minerals, including \$10 million from its appropriation for fiscal year 2006.

(2) Provide that DOE's expenditure of \$10 million for that purpose (or, under certain circumstances, an appropriate payment to specified Federal and State officials for acquisition of Rocky Flats minerals or for habitat restoration at Rocky Flats) will satisfy certain claims